

Ouachita Parish



"Over the years, it has become clear that individual health is closely linked to community health—the health of the community and environment in which individuals live, work, and play. Likewise, community health is profoundly affected by the collective beliefs, attitudes, and behaviors of everyone who lives in the community"

Healthy People 2010

Parish Health Profiles 2005 — Your Parish at a Glance

	Ouachita	Louisiana	U.S.	HP 2010
ECONOMICS, 2000				
% All persons in poverty	20.7%	19.6%	12.4%	--
% Children under 18 in poverty	30.0%	26.6%	16.6%	--
% Unemployed 16 and over	8.2%	7.3%	5.8%	--
EDUCATION 2002-2003				
School Expenditure per Student	\$6,892	\$6,906	--	--
Student Attendance (average daily attendance as a % of the average number of students enrolled)	94.2%	93.5%	--	--
% High School Drop Outs (as a % of incoming 9th grade)	6.5%	7.0%	--	--
MOTHERS AND CHILDREN, 2002				
Infant mortality rate (per 1,000 births)	10.6	10.2	7.0	4.5
% Receiving prenatal care within first 3 months	85.8%	83.8%	83.7%	90.0%
% Receiving adequate prenatal care (modified Kessner)	82.3%	78.9%	76.2%	--
% Low birth weight	10.8%	10.5%	7.7%	5.0%
% Births to teens ages 15 - 19	15.3%	15.5%	10.6%	--
% Children fully immunized by 2 years old	--	69.8%	78.5%	90.0%
INFECTIOUS DISEASES, 2003 (new cases - rate per 100,000 population)				
Syphilis (primary and secondary)	--	4.1	2.5	0.2
Early Syphilis (primary, secondary and early latent)	NA	8.6	5.4	--
Chlamydia	588.8	469.8	304.3	3.0
Gonorrhea	305.6	265.6	116.2	19.0
Tuberculosis	7.2*	5.8	5.1	1.0
STATEWIDE LEADING CAUSES OF DEATH, 2002 (death rate per 100,000 population)				
Heart	226.0	248.4	241.7	166.0
Cancer	179.3	209.7	193.2	159.9
Cerebrovascular Disease	56.2	57.4	56.4	48.0
Accidents	46.7	46.7	37.0	17.5
Diabetes	60.2	39.5	25.4	45.0
Chronic Lower Respiratory	48.1	37.8	43.3	--
COMMUNITY SAFETY, 2003				
Validated cases of child abuse/neglect (rate per 1,000 population)	15.2	10.9	12.4	10.3
Deaths caused by motor vehicle crashes (rate per 100 Million Vehicle Miles Traveled)	1.5	2.1	1.5	0.8
HEALTH BEHAVIORS, 2004				
	Region 8	Louisiana	U.S.	HP 2010
% Current cigarette smokers (adults 18+)	25.7%	23.5%	21.0%	12.0%
% Obese - BMI>30 (adults 20+)	28.7%	27.0%	31.1%	15.0%
% Having a mammogram within 2 years (women 40+)	72.5%	74.3%	74.6%	70.0%
% Having a pap smear within 3 years (women 18+)	80.4%	85.2%	85.9%	90.0%
% Having a flu shot in past year (adults 65+)	61.5%	68.6%	67.9%	90.0%

Data Sources:

Economics: U.S. Census 2000 Summary File 3 (SF 3) - Sample Data, 2000

Education: Louisiana Department of Education District-reported data submitted to the Student Information System (SIS) end-of-year (EOY) report and Profile of Educational Personnel (PEP) System. Office of Management and Finance, Division of Planning, Analysis and Information Resources. District Composite Report 2003-2004.

Mothers and Children: DHH/OPH, Louisiana State Center for Health Statistics, 2004 Louisiana Health Report Card and National Vital Statistics Reports, Vol. 53, No. 15, February 2005

Infectious Diseases: DHH/OPH, Sexually Transmitted Disease Program. 2004 and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, "Trends in Reportable Sexually Transmitted Disease in the United States, 2003". NA= Rate not available, # of cases is less than 5

Leading Causes of Death: DHH/OPH, Louisiana State Center for Health Statistics, 2004 Louisiana Health Report Card and National Vital Statistics Reports, Vol. 53, No. 15, February 2005 (**Rates for counts less than 20 are unreliable and are not reported)

Community Safety: Child Abuse--Louisiana Department of Social Services, Office of Community Services, prepared by Prevent Child Abuse Louisiana and Motor Vehicle Deaths--EMS/Injury Research & Prevention Program

Healthy Behaviors: DHH/OPH, Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS), 2004

History^{1, 2}

One of the original 19 parishes, Ouachita was created on March 31, 1807. Meaning silver water, it was named for the Ouachita Indians. Many mounds are found in the Ouachita Valley. Hernando DeSoto explored this rich territory in 1541. French settlers were here as early as 1720. The original parish was later divided into eight other Louisiana Parishes.



Located on the Ouachita River, in Ouachita Parish, Monroe and West Monroe offer a taste of Louisiana history, art, entertainment, food and family fun. Antique Alley (in 1880.s buildings) is a delight to thousands annually. The Biedenharn Home, constructed in 1914 by Joseph Biedenharn, who was the first to bottle Coca-Cola in 1894, is filled with beautiful antique furnishings. In addition, the Biedenharn Foundation consists of a Bible Museum and ElSong gardens.

Parish Seat³ Monroe

Major Cities (population over 5,000)

- Monroe
- West Monroe
- Claiborne⁴
- Brownsville/Bawcomville

Parish Population⁵

2000.....	147,250
2003 (estimate)	147,898
2000 Population by Race	
White.....	64.5%
African-American	33.6%
Some other race.....	1.9%
Hispanic of Latino (of any race)	1.2%
2000 Population by Age	
Under 5 years	7.2%
5-14	15.8%
15-17	4.9%
18-19	3.6%
20-24	8.3%
25-64	48.2%
65 & over	11.8%

Geography and Statistics⁶

Average elevation	77ft.
Land area in square miles	611
Water area in square miles	21.8

Climate

Average temperatures

Annual	65°
January	53°
July	92°
Annual average rainfall	52 inches

Labor Force (2001)⁷

Ouachita Parish

Civilian.....	73,584
Employed	69,556
Unemployed.....	4,028
Unemployment.....	5.5%

Louisiana

Civilian.....	2,055,000
Employed	1,956,500
Unemployed.....	98,500
Unemployment Rate	4.8%

Colleges/Universities (within one hour commute)

- Grambling State University
- Louisiana Tech University
- University of Louisiana at Monroe

1. [Louisiana Almanac](#), 2002-2003 edition, Pelican Publishing Company, Gretna, LA. 2002.
2. Louisiana Office of Culture Recreation and Tourism, 1998. keywords: regional information, <<http://www.crt.state.la.us/crt/tourism/>>.
3. [Louisiana Almanac](#), 2002-2003 edition, Pelican Publishing Company, Gretna, LA. 2002.
4. A Census Designated Place is "a densely settled concentration of population that is not within an incorporated place, but is locally identified by a name", such as Claiborne in Ouachita Parish.
5. U.S. Census Bureau, Summary File 1 (SF 1) and Summary File 3 (SF 3) <<http://www.census.gov>>.
6. U.S. Census Bureau: State and County QuickFacts <<http://www.census.gov>>.
7. Louisiana Department of Labor, Civilian Labor Force Summary <http://www.ldol.state.la.us/forms/lmi/CLF_Parishes_2000-Present.xls>.